GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:369
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2005
STRENGTHENING INDIGENOUS DEFENCE INDUSTRY
Barman Shri Ranen

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the indigenous defence industry and carry out constant research and development and regular upgradation of fighting equipment;

(b) if so, the details of the comprehensive proposal formulated by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Yes, Sir. Defence industry sector, so far reserved for the public sector, has been opened for 100% private sector participation, subject to licensing. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has a policy of sharing knowledge and providing facilities to the Defence industries to build up competence for research, development and upgradation of fighting equipment and weapon systems.

(b) Department of Defence Production has so far issued 23 Letters of Intent (LOI)/Industrial Licences to private sector for manufacture of a wide range of defence equipment. Government has evolved an efficient interacting mechanism with the industry.

(c) Does not arise.